



State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

LOUISIANA STATE CHILD DEATH REVIEW

December 8, 2020

Zoom Attendees: Amanda Perry, Bridget Gardner, Dr. Laura Clayton-Kleinpeter, Debra Feller, Jane Herwehe, Jade Marler, Jennifer Le, Jessica Bedwell, Jia Benno, Jim Groody, Dr. Joseph Kanter, Julie Johnston, Laurel Kitto, Lauren Meher, Lisa Norman, Lori Miller, Marty Hennegan, Nicole Cousins, Pamela Cart, Rachel Purgatorio, Robyn Thomas, Rosa Bustamante-Forest, Rosaria Trichilo-Lucas, Sara Dickerson, Shana Toole, Shelly Ryan Gray, and Sunny Funk.

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Introductions:

Dr. Joseph Kanter, Interim Assistant Secretary of the Office of Public Health, gave a briefing on the COVID-19 pandemic in Louisiana.

- We are currently in a rough spot regarding COVID-19 in Louisiana and we have every reason to think that it will get worse. We will shortly have more hospitalizations than we did during the 1st and 2nd wave. This is a big issue because we cannot pull in staff from other places, since these peaks are being seen everywhere. It is more of an issue about staff than the number of beds. We haven't even seen the spike from Thanksgiving yet
- If there is not a real reason for people to come together for work and meetings, please meet virtually! Very little cannot be achieved through Zoom.
- In your personal lives – take it slow. Don't have people over at your house or gather in groups.
- Quarantine protocols – the CDC released revised quarantine protocols last week (this is people who have been exposed NOT those with confirmed infections or who tested positive). OPH reviewed this protocol and released their guidelines. The 14-day quarantine is still the gold standard but they know that it is very difficult to get people to do this. The 2 options are 10-day quarantine or a 7-day quarantine and test (if the test is negative then you can end quarantine). There is a 1-12% risk that you will still be infectious but this is even more important that people are following this quarantining. Masking and distancing is essential with the shortened quarantine.
- The COVID vaccine – FDA is meeting on the 10th to give authorization for the Pfizer vaccine (this is the one that needs to be refrigerated to -60). Within 24 hours of authorization the vaccine will be on planes being shipped to LA. These vaccines will be given to front line hospital personnel (doctors, nurses, techs, janitorial services, food delivery, and linens). On the 17th the FDA is going to meet to approve Moderna. This will be used for nursing homes and long-term care facility residents and staff. This is contracted with Walgreens and CVS to manage vaccine in long-term care facilities. This will probably be the last week of December. This is all going to take probably through the end of January. The general public probably won't get the vaccine until summer.

Public communications – prepare and be excited for the future but right now it is going to get worse before it gets better. Important to mask and distance!

Meeting Notice Process:

Notes are sent out through email and posted on the boards and commissions website. Invites will be sent out to anyone who requests them. The first half of the meeting is an open meeting and case review part of the meeting is closed. For the case review part of the meeting, only people who are legislatively mandated can attend.

CDR Protocol Training and Legislation Update:

- Modifications to CDR language were made by the legal team. These changes will go to legal department for LDH and then LDH will put these changes in their legislative package. The changes to the CDR legislation involve small language changes, the addition of legislatively mandated people, and a change in the definition of unexpected child death.
- Protocol training will be recorded on video and made available to individuals involved in CDR. We will then set up trainings across the state. For the first half of the meeting, the recorded training will be played, the second half will have people available to answer questions. If you would like to be involved, please contact Jane Herwehe by emailing jane.herwehe@la.gov. We are looking for DAs, sheriffs, coroners, etc. who can be champions for the training and who would be willing to participate in the recording.
- Jim Groody, Dr. Laura Clayton-Kleinpeter, Laurel Kitto and Sara Dickerson have volunteered to present for recorded webinar testimonials
- We will send out commonly asked questions to include in the training. Please let Rosaria Trichilo-Lucas know if you have any additions. The questions are:
 - What if the case is not adjudicated? Which records can I share?
 - If a case comes across my desk, who can I reach out to?
 - How is our info protected and securely sent to OPH local contacts?
 - For new data partners, how do we get started?
 - Where can I/you find information on CDR?
 - What is the impact if an office does not provide info?
 - How much work is this for my office? What are our options for delivery of information?
 - Does the DA need to approve release of records?
 - What is in it for us/ how can we benefit?

MVC & Firearm Safe Storage Workgroup Updates:

- **Firearm Safe Storage Workgroup Update:**
 - Creating a campaign is outside of our budget (\$20,000-40,000).
 - We have been testing messages that already exist for Project Child Safe and Be SMART. These will continue to be tested for the next month. So far finding that the messages are acceptable to testers and they feel messages are needed in general, even if not for them.
 - The goal of our campaign would be to go through face to face distribution (through gun ranges, firearm safety instructors, hunting stores, pediatricians). Secondary to that would be a billboard or other paid media to remind gun owners about the information they have already received.
 - Sandra Adams and Chief Frank Edwards may be able to help with funding.
 - If you would like to review materials, please contact Jane Herwehe (jane.herwehe@la.gov) or Jia Benno (jia.benno@la.gov).

- Lauren Meher volunteered to review materials.
- **Motor Vehicle Crash Workgroup Update:**
 - Collaboration to promote child passenger safety has been successful this year even with the hurricane presence.
 - Community advisory and action teams (CAATs) have 13 teams across the regions. Most CAATs have representatives and a few have expressed an interest in starting a work group next year to align ongoing efforts in their communities.

Syndromic Surveillance Presentation:

- The percentages of ED visits related to traffic, drowning, suspected child abuse and neglect, and suicide seem higher in 2020 versus 2019, but this is likely an artificial inflation because of a lower denominator (fewer total ED visits due to COVID-19).
- The actual counts look pretty similar across both years even though the percentages look like there is a difference. Additionally, the trends across both years follow the same pattern which may support that there may not be a true increase of these injury types in 2020 compared to 2019.
- The only injury type (among the ones looked at) that did appear to see an increase in 2020 versus 2019 was firearms. It appeared that there were sustained alerts/warnings between roughly March to June 2020 as compared to 2019. It is hard to say whether these were an increase in just intentional or unintentional.

Agency Updates

- Rosaria Trichilo-Lucas- (BFH)
 - National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention Suicide Best Practices National Center Guidance Report: https://www.ncfrp.org/wp-content/uploads/Suicide_Guidance.pdf
 - Resources can be accessed through website.
 - There is specific information for death scene investigators in the document.
 - MCH Coordinator positions are available and posted online for Regions 1 & 3.
- Julie Johnston- (BFH) Birth Defects surveillance has been strategically planning to submit a CDC application for a grant to coordinate with CAATs and PQC to do primary/secondary prevention and improve quality of birth defects surveillance. We will find out about whether or not we have received the grant in January.
- Shelley Ryan Gray (MCH Coordinator R7) Mike Nolan (a pediatric trauma nurse) is working with colleagues to use evidence based framework to reduce injuries related to gunshot wounds across the state. Received some data from us and is getting internal data from Ochsner. Be on the lookout for updates in 2021.
- Shana Toole- (US Consumer Product Safety Commission) Senior fire safety campaign and holiday safety campaigns are ongoing. Current safety campaigns from CPSC: Senior Fire Safety and Holiday Safety information can be found on our website: www.cpsc.gov on the education center tab. Please contact me for more information at stoole@cpsc.gov
- Jessica Bedwell- (Louisiana Highway Safety Commission) Still getting work authorization approved. Still pushing service announcements through social media in different languages. There is an excellent video created for child safety. Partners are encouraged to share from their Facebook page.
- Bridget Gardner- (Strategic Highway Safety Plan) Child car seat event December 19th in Alexandria. 1,300 kids have been accommodated in the state. Looking for volunteers who want to help with car seat distributions!

- Laurel Kitto- (NICU/Neonatal Transport Services/Women's Hospital) There is a Safe Sleep task force in process. They are updating discharge procedures/teaching and adding safe sleep to follow-up calls. Text messages will be sent as reminders to new moms for safe sleep practices. They are hoping to begin these initiatives in 2021. Laurel is requesting safe sleep talking points be distributed.
- Robyn Thomas- (OBH) Collaborative ongoing with Janice Zube for project aware. Training ongoing this week for mental health/substance use. AWARE is a virtual training to train instructors to offer Youth Mental Health First Aid. Instructors will offer training in the AWARE districts after they are trained. The AWARE districts include St. Bernard, Jefferson Parish, and Monroe City Schools.
- Pam Cart- Coroner Collaborative Feb 19 and 20th in Lafayette COVID permitting.
- Lori Miller (DCFS) DCFS has formed a partnership with Safe Haven alliance who offers a 24/7 hotline for mothers in need of support. This hotline talks mothers through the process, gives them information about safe haven, links them to the safe haven site, and teaches them about the adoption process. A video is also being developed for release next year.

Next Meeting:

- March 23 2021 Time: 12-3pm
- June 22 2021 Time: 12-3pm
- September 28 2021 Time: 12-3pm
- December 7 2021 Time: 12-3pm
- Location TBA most likely Zoom

Membership:

- Positions available:
 - Member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives and Member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate. Barbara Frieberg was mentioned as possibly an interested Representative from the House.
 - Forensic pathologist certified by the American Board of Pathology and licensed to practice medicine in the state appointed by the chairman of the Louisiana State Child Death Review Panel subject to Senate confirmation. Pam mentioned Drs. DeFatta and Troxler from JPCO and Dr. Craver from Children's Hospital NO and Dr. Trailer of LSU S'Port. Amanda Perry may be able to find a recommendation. And Dr. Welke - Calcasieu Parish Coroner may be interested..
 - Pathologist experienced in pediatrics appointed by the Louisiana Pathology Society
 - Pediatrician experienced in SUID as well as another pediatrician experienced in CAN. Dr. Kleinpeter will ask for contact of colleague at Children's Hospital NO.
 - One citizen from the state at large who represent different geographic areas of the state.
- Please contact Jane Herwehe for House, Senate, forensic pathologist, expertise in child abuse and neglect/expertise in SUID recommendations for membership to CDR.
- Amanda Perry will look into forensic pathologist; Barbara Frieberg may be interested for House/Senate.

Adjourn 2:05